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NEWS

humorous

New York, by Dode's Limner.

Bertie, Charlie, Sybil-these English proper names of dignity and beauty will et the eye of the reader pleasantly in Mr. F. Benson's new novel, "The Relentless City (Harper & Brothers). Bertie and the others happily have undergone no change since Dodo's time; they are the same calm contillating company, warranted to remain placid and to continue the conversation in he best British manner even in a Krakataua earthquake. For the sake of the contrast Mr. Benson brings Bertie and Sybil to New York, which is the rejentless city of the title and every bit as good as Krakataga, we should say, in the author's view. Bertie is Lord Keynes and (surprising novelty in and out of a novel) is after an Ameri-

Chapter IV. shows up the dreadful city as it appeared at Broadway and Thirtyfourth street at the close of a hot September day. The pleasantest urban journey of our experience was performed in London in an omnibus that went out to Hackney one afternoon when it rained. There was plenty of time to enjoy it. Here at Broadway and Thirty-fourth street all was so different. The streaming multitudes in the electric cars trod fiercely on one another's feet and depended marvellously in clusters from straps. They were masses of damp, human heat talking through their noses. The noises were many and deafening, and included the roar of the Herald presses printing Buster Browns. Strangely, it may seem to the reader, some of the noise was con tributed by the iron-shod wheels of drays flagellating "the uneven, ill-paved cobbles of the street." Moreover this neighborhood was marked by "dingy, sour-smelling restaurants"; and though we cannot be quite sure, for the language is too cautious to be entirely clear, our impression is that Mr. Benson, on that crowded and painful afternoon, found the Hotel Waldorf casting its shadow in a westerly direction, and well nigh as far as Hoboken, where the sun was mightily and mighty torridly setting at the time. We may notice here before we forget tt that a few days later Mr. Benson found Newport and Long Island engaged in a social war that swayed those two communities "more bitterly and poignantly

Lewis S. Palmer's country place on Long Island, where Bertie and Sybil were enter tained, was pleasanter in some respects than Broadway and Thirty-fourth street. Its statuary, for one thing, was superior to the Horace Greeley and the W. E. Dodge of the urban locality. The most powerful strokes of the author's satire of American society are undoubtedly bestowed in his description of Mrs. Lewis S. Palmer's pearlfishing entertainment. We will gratify our readers with just a little of this. Mrs. Palmer and the Prince of Saxe-Hochlaben, "a dissolute young man of twenty-five, with a limp, s past, and no future," led the way. "The rowds screamed and chattered through the woods, following their illustrious leader and at last emerged onto the beach. There an immense sort of bathing establishment had been erected, containing hundreds of little cabinets. There were two wings, one for men, one for women, and in each cabinet for women was a blue serge skirt and sanfals, a leather pouch and a small fishing net. In each cabinet for men was the same apparatus, minus the skirt. The lagoon itself melled strongly of rose water, for thouands of gallons had just been emptied into is, and the surface was covered with floating tables laden with refreshments, and large artificial water lilies; and scattered over the bottom of the lagoon, scattered, too, with a liberal hand, were hundreds of

than the War of Independence swayed the

North and the South."

We pause a single moment to direct attention to the fact that in this strong attack on American society the German aristocracy is also made to suffer. Bertie and Sybil must have had their opinion of the Prince of Saxe-Hochlaben, who is quite as vulgar and ridiculous, as far as we can see, as the corner of Broadway and Thirty-The satirist powerfully fourth street.

"There was no time wasted. As soon as Prince Fritz grasped the situation, and it had been made clear to him that he might keep any pearls he found, he rushed madly to the nearest cabin, rolled his trousers up to the knee, and put the sandals on his rather large, ungainly feet, and plunged into the rose-watered lagoon. Nor were the rest slow to follow his example, and in five minutes it was a perfect mob of sergeskirted women and bare-legged men. Shrieks of ecstasy greeted the finding of the pearls, cries of dismay arose if the shell was found to contain nothing. Faster and more furious grew the efforts of all to secure them. For a time the floating refreshment tables attracted not the smallest attention. In particular the Prince was entranced, and, not waiting to open the shells where the oyster was still alive (most, however, had been killed by the rose water or the journey, and gaped open), he stowed them away in his pockets, in order to examine them afterward, not waste the precious moments when so many were in competition with him, and his raucous cries of "Ach, Himmel, there is a peauty!' resounded like a base drum through the shrill din. He paid no attention whatever to the throng round him; for the present he was intent on the entertainment, and paused only once to empty a bottle of Munich beer, which had been especially provided for him on a table with a scarlet tablecloth, for the day was hot and the exertions of grubbing to the sand quite severe. Bertie Keynes had not entered the water with the first wild scramble, but had stood on the bank a few minutes divided between amazement and helpless giggling as he observed Mrs. Cyprus F. Bimm, a stout, middle-aged woman lately widowed, plunge in without even pausing to take her stockings off, and fall flat on her face.

It seems a pity in a story of such brilliant pleasantry, that it should have been necessary to kill off Bilton, the American impresario, in the railroad tunnel at Frampton. The express train struck Bilton in the tunnel, and Bertie and Amelie (she was Lewis 8. Palmer's superbly beautiful and healthy daughter) were waiting at the station when the train came in. As Bertie glanced at the engine he "gave one short gasp of horror and grasped his wife's arm. 'Bertie, what is it?' she said. "Go on, Amelie,' he said, quickly 'Don't look to right or left, but walk straight on.' She obeyed him, and he went to the engine driver. "There is something on your engine,' he said." touch quite like Mr. Richard Harding Davis and some others—restrained but grim. We were glad of the epilogue, in which Amelie assures Bertie that the baby is wonderfulso wonderful that she has the word of the We should not have cared to have the story end with the remark of Bertie to the engine driver. A cheerful last word, for our blowing out the electric light.

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who would not marry him, a visit matwenty years after the period of his rejection, she being at that later time a perfectly unemotional widow with seven children. will impress and amuse the reader. He came with the stamp of the Indian climate on his face, a brown, gray-headed man, thoughtful with the acquisitions of studious years, a scholar of sensitive perceptions, still faithfully a bachelor, wondering what he should find the lady like; and the opening paragraph of the third chapter tells very succinctly and plainly what she was when he found her. We read:

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